(a) whether it is a fact that the availability of gas as fuel is decreasing in the units producing chemical fertilizers in the country;

(b) the status of the availability of gas separately during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and the first quarter 2006-07; and

(c) the reasons for shortage in availability of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The availability of domestic natural gas for use in manufacture of area is declining due to increasing demand of various consumers and due to depletion of old gas fields. The availability of natural gas for fertilizer sector during 2004-05 was 23.79 Million Metric standard Cubic Metres per day (MMSCMD). With the commencement of supplies of re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) from 1.4.2005, the availability of natural gas and RLNG during 2005-06 increased to 28.477 MMSCMD against the requirement of 36.42 MMSCMD for existing gas based units. As the first quarter of 2006-07 is not yet over, no data for this period has been compiled.

Use of naphtha as a fuel in chemical fertilizer plants

†3684. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gas and Naphtha are used as fuel oil and other fuel in the chemical fertilizer producing units in the country;

(b) if so, the names of fuels being used primarily in these units in the country, and

(c) the percentage of each fuel being used in the units established in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Natural gas, naphtha, fuel oil (FO) and low sulphur heavy stock (LSHS) are primarily used as feedstock and fuel in the manufacture of urea. Out of the total production

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

capacity of 197.0034 lakh metric tonnes per annum (LMTPA) of urea from 28 urea units in operation, 130.1749 LMTPA (66.08%) is based on natural gas, 45.4535 LMTPA (23.07%) on naphtha and 21.375 LMTPA (10.85%) on FO/LSHS.

MEGA Industrial Parks at Vishakhapatnam

3685. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider setting up of Mega Industrial Parks for petrochemical and Allied Industries with Public and Private Partnership model with State involvement at Vishakhapatnam as the Government of India has identified Andhra Pradesh as one of the potential State for such projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, assisted by Consultants is studying the feasibility of setting up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates at different locations in the country. A Task Force on Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) has also been constituted in the Prime Minister's Office on 20.1.2006, in order to enable quick and coordinated decision making and to provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors, in the field of petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals. This Task Force will also finalize the number and locations of PCPIRs. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

Drug prices liability review committee

3686. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Drug Prices Liability Review Committee to settle the cases of Drug Price Equalization Account (DPEA) recovery; and